

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's continued thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for insufficient antecedent basis. The amendment to claim 1 corrects an obvious typographical error and overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Libman et al. ("Libman," U.S. Patent No. 6,608,814). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' claim 1 is directed to a method for controlling access to a site on a data communication network, for example the Internet, in accordance with the age of the user requesting access. In particular, claim 1 defines a step of providing a "user age identifier" over a data communication network. "Age information" relating to a user's age is transmitted to at least one of the site, a service provider and the user. Minors may be blocked from accessing a site that hosts unsuitable content. Further, claim 1 defines a network address of the site specified by the user that is "associated" with the age identifier, and the user is allowed to connect to the site as a function of the age identifier. Thus, in accordance with the invention defined in claim 1, any Internet web site can be made aware that a minor is attempting to connect thereto, and the web site owner can take appropriate steps, for example, to restrict access to the site.

Applicants respectfully submit that Libman does not teach or suggest all of the features defined in applicants' claim 1. Libman teaches a session resource manager ("SRM") connection manager 14 that, among other things, references a SRM connection manager database 16 to determine whether to block control signaling messages (see column 5, line 42 – column 6, line 6). Parameters regarding users are stored in a database 16, and the SRM connection manager 14 enables viewing of appropriate content based on the stored parameters. In the Office Action, the Examiner cites to column 8, lines 35-66 to Libman and states that Libman teaches "automatically associating [a] network address with [an] age identifier and allowing the user to connect to [sites] as a function of [the] age identifier." Applicants respectfully disagree.

Unlike applicants' claim 1, Libman does not associate network addresses of sites with an age identifier. Instead, Libman references a database to retrieve profile information regarding a

user, provides a personalized menu to the subscriber for selection of services to be rendered. Also unlike applicants' claim 1 which provides for automatically associating a network address with the age identifier, the SRM connection manager 16 selects appropriate content for a user depending on profile information stored in database 18. Libman is, accordingly, patentably distinct from applicants' claim 1, and claim 1 is allowable over Libman.

Claim 2 depends directly from claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable for the same reasons as well as because of the combination of features set forth in claim 2 with the features in claim 1.

Claims 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being patentable over Libman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner has taken "Official Notice" that network navigation program is well known in the art. Notwithstanding this conclusion, Libman does not teach or suggest applicants' claim 1 feature of "automatically associating" a network address with an age identifier. Claims 4-7 depend directly from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in claim 1. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition of allowance, for which action is earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 13, 2005:

Respectfully submitted,

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Date of Signature

RCF:JJF:ck:jl